

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST

December 2006 - January 2007



A precious resource Sugar Land's Water Utility

The City of Sugar Land owns and operates a water and wastewater utility system. The utility system is operated similar to a business; those who use the services pay for the services through fees.

Water and wastewater fees are made up of two components, a flat monthly service rate, based on the size of the meter, and volume charges based on the amount of water used. The current rates are designed to encourage conservation, meaning that residential water increases in cost based on the amount used.

Fees collected from water and wastewater charges support the total operations of the water system which includes wells, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, lift stations and utility planning needs. The City is currently preparing for mandatory

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Sugar Land Breaks Ground on Brazos River Park



Pictured are left to right: Councilman Michael Schiff, Council liaison; Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board members Hillary Goldstein, Sue Chiang and Arnold Arevalo (chairman); Karl Miller (director), Joe Chesser and Kimberly Terrell of the Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board members not pictured are Andre McDonald, Michelle Wohlwend, Tony Talamini and John Braswell.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for Brazos River Park in September kicked off what will be one of the most significant green space projects ever undertaken in Fort Bend County.

A 1997 Master Plan identified nine miles and 3,600 acres of floodway property within Sugar Land's corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction as future parkland. The development of a linear park along the Brazos River Corridor will include conservation and recreation opportunities eventually covering the full nine-mile stretch of the river through Sugar Land. All of

the land comes from donations from the State of Texas and private developers.

The first phase, part of the 420 acres of park site the state donated to Sugar Land, is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2007. At the Nov. 7 Sugar Land City Council meeting, Council adopted a resolution to formally name these 420 acres bordered by the Brazos River, U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard, as "Sugar Land Memorial Park." The Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board was instrumental in the naming and studied aspects of the City's history and culture prior to the recommendations to

City Council.

Funding for phase one comes from \$2.8 million earmarked in the City's 1999 bond election.

Residents will enjoy walking/jogging trails, a picnic pavilion, playground, canoe launch, open space for sport activities, a 25-acre lake, restrooms and parking areas. Significant cost savings were realized on lake development through an agreement involving excavation with the U.S. 59 contractors. Visitors will enter the parks at the current intersection of Commonwealth and University boulevards. The City plans to continue to acquire acreage along both sides of the river.

Inside

First Colony Mall Expansion

Landscaped outdoor plaza is a one-stop fashion and culinary destination

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New Recycling Center

A convenient alternative for residents in southern Sugar Land area

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Catch the Holiday Spirit in Town Square

Photo-op with Santa, dance and choral performances

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Local city government has a unique relationship with its citizenry. Not only do cities provide basic and public safety services, but also significantly influence their residents' quality of life and property values. In addition, city government is close to the people. It is relatively easy for a citizen to directly influence local government decision-making by contacting their Councilmember or attending Council meetings.

The City of Sugar Land has been successful in meeting the needs of its residents through enhanced City services while limiting the residents' tax burden. This has been possible because your city leadership has utilized the full range of authority granted under the Texas Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas. It is in the interest of our residents to ensure that local authority and flexibility is maintained so that the City's successful track record can continue.

When the 80th Texas Legislature convenes at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, our Intergovernmental Relations Department will embark on the extremely important task and responsibility of monitoring potential legislation that

might affect our City. The City has learned that it is extremely important that we be proactive each legislative session. In the past, state legislation was passed requiring cities to create programs or perform services while offering no state money for the cities to accomplish these requirements. We call these unfunded mandates. Such requirements can place a strain on our City and a burden on local taxpayers who invariably end up funding these programs. The City will oppose any legislation that would place unfunded mandates on cities. In addition, it is a common practice for the legislature to enact one-size-fits-all solutions that severely impact and limit our ability to conduct business in a manner that is in our citizens' best interest.

On October 17, 2006, the Sugar Land City Council passed a resolution establishing the City's legislative agenda. Generally, this legislative agenda opposes unfunded mandates and the erosion in municipal authority. It is largely defensive in nature. Specifically, Sugar Land will oppose:

- Any changes to the current property and sales tax systems that would cause the City to lose revenue or the ability to raise revenue to provide basic and lifesaving services;
- Any legislation that would erode the authority of cities to annex;
- Any legislation that would restrict the zoning authority of cities;
- Any legislation that would negatively impact the city's authority over its right-of-way;
- Attempts to restrict the use of economic development tools such as tax abatement and tax

increment reinvestment zones;

- Legislation that would impose expanded collective bargaining rights;
- Any legislation that would erode the authority of city government.

We also will work proactively to help write legislation that encourages the relocation and consolidation of the Central Prison Unit into another prison location. This will open the door for the City's possible acquisition of the prison property for potential airport expansion and a future business park.

In the past, the City has engaged a lobbyist to oversee areas of legislative interest to Sugar Land. For the current legislative session, the City has engaged a respected and knowledgeable legislative lobbyist in Austin in order that we are "up to the minute" and ready to confront or support issues that might be under discussion in the legislature.

The City Council resolution adopting the City's legislative agenda directs the City Manager and his staff to take all necessary actions to not only inform Sugar Land residents of this agenda, but to encourage them to be aware of the local legislative process. In addition, this information is also provided to our state representatives and senators to ensure that they have the resources to call upon in making decisions that impact the lives of Sugar Land citizens.

We will keep you apprised of what Sugar Land is doing to participate in our state's very dynamic legislative process.

Allen Bogard

SUGAR LAND GOALS

- Well-planned community
- Safest city in the area
- Strong local economy
- Responsible city government
- Mobility for people
- Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Assistant City Manager

Contributors

David Ambrocik, Matt Aust, Justin Bower, Jennifer Brown, Gerald Cullar, Stuart Denton, Mike Goodrum, Glenda Gundermann, Steve Griffith, Shashi Kumar, Mike Leech, Elizabeth Mangum, Richard Mancilla, Jennifer May, Regina Morales, Andy Peal, Kelly Penewitt, Teresa Preza, Karen Rigaud, Tracey Siu, Adam Smith, Dannie Smith, Sabine Somers-Kuenzel, SuEllen Staggs, Clayton Taylor, Reena Varghese, Pat Walsh

Sugar Land Today is published every two months by the City of Sugar Land. Send your comments to:
editor@sugarlandtx.gov



Sugar Land is on TV!
Tune in for City-related information.

SLTV 16 is available to Time Warner subscribers within the corporate City limits of Sugar Land. Check out a live online stream of SLTV 16 and video on demand at www.sugarlandtx.gov.

First Colony Mall Expansion Opens In Style

First Colony Mall debuted its new 120,000-square-foot lifestyle expansion in October with 24 stores clustered around a landscaped plaza. Sugar Land's newest upscale shopping and dining destination joins the previously opened Cheesecake Factory and Kona Grill. This outdoor lifestyle environment on the east side of the mall provides more shopping opportunities with the introduction of sought-after national brands.

After 10 years as a major regional shopping destination,

First Colony Mall offers shoppers a self-contained, mixed-use environment – a “one-stop fashion and culinary destination.”

Future openings will include Black Walnut Café, Coach and Grimaldi's Pizzeria. Several other major retailers, including Barnes & Noble, Ann Taylor, Chico's and Talbots have relocated from within the mall, or the surrounding area, to the new expansion.

The City partnered in the expansion project through an agreement that provided assistance with infrastructure projects,

including utilities, streets, sidewalks and parking structures.

The agreement involves the utilization of City funding, as well as two economic development tools – the Sugar Land Development Corporation and the Sugar Land 4B Corporation – to provide a performance-based incentive for reimbursement of infrastructure projects. The First Colony Mall expansion enhances the mall's amenities and generates new jobs, capital investment and approximately \$14 million in sales taxes to the City over a 10-year period.

New retailers:

- Pottery Barn
- White House/Black Market
- ALDO Shoes
- Soma by Chico's
- Coldwater Creek
- Kay Jewelers
- Toni & Guy
- Swarovski Crystal
- Apple Computer



Blairs enjoy their rebuilt home

Sixteen months ago, a fire caused by a lightning strike destroyed the long-time home of Buddy and Billie Blair. Family, church friends, neighbors and Fort Bend CORPS provided resources and other assistance to help

them rebuild. Additionally, there was some Community Development Block Grant funding. Now the Blairs, married 51 years, are enjoying their new home as they relax on the front porch.



Stay Safe During the Holidays

Holiday Decorating and Lighting

In the midst of holiday excitement, it's easy to be a little distracted. The sights and sounds of the holidays, the wonderful aromas that seem to be everywhere... In fact, holidays are days most prone to accidents around the house. So it's a good time of year to think again about safety—and talk about safe procedures with the entire family. Here are some starting points:

- Choose holiday decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings, and replace damaged items. Do not overload extension cords.
- Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

Holiday Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. Keep an eye on the range.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and above the reach of children.
- Test your smoke alarms.

Holiday Shopping

Sugar Land is safe. Several of the recognition awards the City has received cite the low crime rate. Nonetheless, it's always prudent to consider the possibility of being a crime victim—that's a good preventive strategy. And the more you know, the safer you are. Here are a few tips while shopping:

- Park in a well-lit area.
- Place valuables in the trunk or glove compartment, out of sight.
- Avoid carrying large handbags. Carry only what is necessary.
- Never leave the store with your arms full of packages. Use a courtesy cart.
- Have your car key in hand, ready to unlock your door.
- If you feel unsafe, always ask the store security to assist you to your car.

Follow Park Safety Tips to Ensure a Pleasant Experience

Sugar Land's abundant green space, recreational opportunities and low crime rate were among the reasons CNN/Money Magazine ranked Sugar Land third on their national "Best Places to Live" list. Increased patrols by the police

department's newly reorganized volunteer Community Assistance Support Team is helping to maintain a safe park environment for residents.

The 3.1 mile jogging and hiking trail at Oyster Creek Park is an exceptional trail for jogger or walker. There are five prominently displayed emergency phones located in the park (see photo), each with a dedicated line to Sugar Land Police dispatch.

No matter where you walk or jog, whether it's daylight or dark, follow some basic safety measures:



- Leave valuables at home, or put them in the trunk *before* arriving in the parking lot.
- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings and project a confident attitude. Be vigilant and aware of where you are and who is around you.
- Carry personal identification, a cell phone and an effective sound-making device if possible.
- Be especially alert when running. Avoid using headphones because they mask important danger signs, such as a person approaching from behind.
- Vary your exercise times and/or routes. Individuals who commit crimes frequently try to predict a potential victim's schedule.
- Know where emergency phones are located and that 9-1-1 can be dialed without a coin from any working payphone.
- Exercise in pairs or with a leashed dog when jogging or walking in the parks.

Community Emergency Response Teams

The Sugar Land Fire Department is creating a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to respond to emergencies within neighborhoods.

CERT members will give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects

that help improve the safety of the community.

Citizens Fire Academy graduates are eligible for CERT selection. This 10-week Academy offers instruction in fire department organization, incident command, CPR, apparatus and equipment, fire suppression activities, tactics and strategies and the opportunity to ride-along with a fire crew. CERT

volunteers will be equipped with basic items that will include an identification badge, response vest, helmet, flashlight and medical kit.

CERT development – including the scope, curriculum, training, marketing and identification of initial participants – will be completed by March. The first team should be operational by summer of 2007.

The Sugar Land Fire Department CERT program will train citizen volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as:

- preparedness;
- situation assessment;
- medical operations;
- basic search and rescue techniques;
- fire suppression;
- utility control and shut off;
- debris removal.



Officer Amy Cummins (right) and Officer Sandy Fontenot (left).

Amy Cummins Joins Crime Prevention Unit

Officer Amy Cummins is the new Beat 2 crime prevention officer, replacing Sandy Fontenot, who was promoted to sergeant and reassigned to patrol. A seven-year law enforcement veteran, Amy worked for the

Waller County constable's office and the University of Houston Police Department – Central Campus prior to joining SLPD in 2003. Cummins is a member of SLPD's honor guard, recruiting team and the fitness team.

A Step Back in Time: Volunteer Pride Evolves into a Career Fire Department

There are many unique perspectives of Sugar Land's evolution from a small company town to a national award-winning city. This includes several veteran firefighters who've witnessed the growth of the Sugar Land Fire Department.

Twenty years ago, volunteers provided fire protection in Sugar Land. At the time, there was one fire station, and a ring-down telephone served the purpose of modern-day 9-1-1. The ring-down phone rang in many of the members' homes and at Imperial Sugar Company where the "Fire Whistle" was located.

The change to a full-time career department occurred in 1978 with the hiring of Arnold Finch, Sugar Land's first paid professional firefighter, now retired. Today, there are six fire stations and 105 employees. At least six City firefighters recall SLFD's early history – hearing the "Fire Whistle," then racing to catch the fire truck before it pulled out of the station.

Here are a few memories:

"My father worked across from the fire station. I watched the firefighters responding to calls and training with the old 1927

Seagraves and 1947 Chevy Fire Engines. I learned the old steam whistle codes, which identified where the fire was located. I

the station, washing trucks, cleaning the station and sometimes respond to calls."

– **Battalion Chief Joe Woolley**



Pictured are, l. to r., Joe Woolley, Gerald Cullar, Jeff Krehmeier, Glenn Turner, Ronnie Matthiesen and Danny Kocich

would go and watch. I began to volunteer in 1976, while working for Imperial Sugar. At the time, we responded from the Imperial plant in a Chevy panel truck."

– **Fire Marshal Gerald Cullar**

"At an early age I became interested in the fire department. My uncles were firemen, and we lived on Brooks Street so the trucks would come by our house. I was afraid of them. In 1977, the fire chief's son and I started the Sugar Land Junior Fire Department. We would help out around

"My dad and mom were born in the Laura Eldridge Hospital located at Woods Street and Lakeview. My children have attended school in the same buildings their grandparents used 80 years ago. I began my career here in 1978 as a junior volunteer."

– **Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Krehmeier**

"My friend, Tim Schumann, was a junior member of the fire department. He got to jump on the fire truck while I got to watch them go screaming with lights

flashing and sirens blaring. I wanted to get on that fire truck, too! Never would I have thought that years later I'd be driving the ladder truck."

– **Driver Danny Kocich**

"My dad was a volunteer, but Troy Holby — firefighter and, later, lieutenant over public education — kind of got me in. I rode out on a call with him and started helping. I worked at the Texaco on Brooks and Highway 90A, but this changed the direction of my life."

– **Senior Inspector Ronnie Matthiesen**

"We carried pagers to school; we all attended Dulles High School and left when there was a call for service. I think they stopped this practice quickly. We have some younger firefighters who grew up in Sugar Land after the volunteer department. They have hometown pride also, just without the VFD memories. Many of our Sugar Land firefighters started out as volunteers in neighboring jurisdictions."

– **Assistant Fire Chief Glenn Turner**

MYAC Continues its Youth Initiatives

Members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) got right to work this fall with its annual "Think Tank" in October and a Code of Conduct Campaign in November. MYAC members are encouraging their peers to join them in setting the standard for acceptable behavior in public places.

MYAC members exemplify public service values through an ongoing willingness to

provide valuable insight on important teen issues. They also will be contributing countless volunteer hours to various community events such as Saturday Night LYF, Boo Bash and the Christmas Tree Lighting.

At the "Think Tank" event, members of the Class of 2006-2007 discussed the Alliance for Youth's "America's Promise" campaign, which they believe is vital to youths

becoming successful adults. The campaign urges governments, corporations, and nonprofit organizations to work together and promise to improve young people's access to caring adults, safe places, healthy starts, effective education and opportunities to serve. Their suggestions from this event and the input of all members through the monthly e-newsletter were used to set the goals for the entire year.

Upcoming events include planning for major spring service events, a City tour in January and a day to "Meet the Chiefs" in February. With this clear dedication to making Sugar Land sweeter for youth, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is not only making our community proud, but is making it better for us all.

For more information, call 281-275-2710 or e-mail myac@sugarlandtx.gov.

Introducing Sugar Land's New Boards and Commissions Members



Sugar Land's boards and commissions give citizens an opportunity to contribute to the City's service – and future! Pictured are boards and commissions members following their swearing-in ceremony at a City Council meeting. For additional information, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov; click on "City Government"; "Boards and Commissions" is listed.

Time Nears for Council Candidates to File for May 2007 Ballot Spots

On Saturday May 12, 2007 Sugar Land citizens will elect four district council members to the Sugar Land City Council. Council members must live within the single-member district they wish to represent.

A candidate for city council must be at least 21 years of age, a

city resident for at least one year preceding election; the district council member shall during the term of office maintain a residence in the district he or she represents. No council member shall hold any other city office or city employment while serving as a council member or hold any

paid city employment within two years thereafter.

The first day a candidate may file for a place on the ballot is February 12. A completed, notarized application must be filed with the City Secretary by the filing deadline, Monday, March 12.

Candidate information packets are available from the City Secretary starting Jan. 30. If you have questions, please contact the City Secretary (281) 275-2730 or e-mail citysecretary@sugarlandtx.gov. Information available at www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Building is bustling

Creating more opportunities for homes, work and shopping

The City of Sugar Land's building industry continues to thrive. New subdivisions in the northern portion of the City are nearing completion, and the Business Park is bustling with new buildings, site expansions, reuse of vacant buildings and site preparation for future buildings.

If you drive through Lake Pointe, you'll see a few town homes under construction with considerable commercial construction along the Highway 6 and 59 frontages. New businesses will include several medical offices and clinics, as well as Fazoli restaurant, Raising Cane's, and Panda Express/Bufalo Wild Wings. In the coming months, construction begins on Whole Foods grocery store and St. Luke's Hospital. More upscale town homes and patio homes also are coming to the Lake Pointe neighborhood.

Further south on U.S. 59, when you drive through southern Telfair, you'll see new residential development on either side of Chatham Avenue and within the model home village at University and New Territory boulevards. Soon there will be activity on the Telfair commercial frontage ("Telfair Crossing") along Highway 6 southeast of University Boulevard.

Highway Construction Hits the Road

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) projects on Sugar Land's major highways remain under construction, and all projects should be complete by late 2008. As these important mobility upgrades advance, the City encourages residents to drive safely and stay informed about construction changes. Go online at www.sugarlandtx.gov for the latest information.

U.S. 59 Expansion

Between State Highway 6 and Grand Parkway, expansion continues to four lanes with a diamond HOV lane in both directions. Recent significant progress can be seen on the northbound frontage road bridge over the Brazos River, where all horizontal beams have now been placed. This bridge will begin to serve as the temporary northbound median lane in the first quarter of 2007.

At the Grand Parkway interchange, construction continues on the U.S. 59 main lanes in the existing freeway median. U.S. 59 will be reconstructed to pass over Grand Parkway, with frontage roads at ground level. The demolition and bridge reconstruction work is scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. The demolition will be handled in

similar fashion to what was recently performed at Sweetwater Blvd. and University Blvd. The demolition will require the permanent closures of the S.H.99 cloveleaf style access ramps.

State Highway 6 and U.S. 90A Expansion

Completion is expected in fall 2007 for construction on U.S. 90A from west of State Highway 6 to Ulrich Street and on State Highway 6 from First Colony Boulevard to north of U.S. 90A. Westbound traffic on U.S. 90A was recently shifted onto the new permanent westbound lanes west of Ulrich. On S.H. 6, south of U.S. 90A, the southbound traffic is on the new southbound frontage road. For northbound S.H. 6, traffic has been shifted to the new northbound frontage roads from University Boulevard to north of U.S. 90A past the railroad crossing. This has resulted in a different intersection configuration. Construction continues on the S.H. 6 bridge passing over University Boulevard, U.S. 90A and the railroad.

U.S. 90A Expansion

U.S. 90A is widening from four to eight lanes with a 30-foot wide median from U.S. 59 to Ulrich Street. U.S.

90A will be a curb and gutter boulevard with additional turn lane capacity at several City cross street approaches to U.S. 90A. Ornamental signal and illumination poles and significant landscaping enhancements will complete the project. Currently, work is being done on the south side of U.S. 90A, including permanent main lanes, a sound wall between Savoy and Lombardy streets, and an access barrier wall between Lombardy and Alkire Lake Drive. TxDOT has indicated that there are no major closures planned during peak hours for the duration of the project.

On Main Street, the eastbound left turn lane will be closed for the duration of the construction project. The anticipated reopening of the eastbound left turn lane is September 2007. Motorists are encouraged to use Brooks Street as an alternate route.

On Brooks Street, the dedicated right turn lane will be eliminated and the northbound lanes will be closed from the intersection of 90A to Guenther Street. Southbound pavement will be used as northbound and southbound through-lanes. This closure and traffic shift is anticipated to last at least one month.



U.S. 59 at Sweetwater Blvd.

City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Sugar Land's capital improvements involve additions, renovations and upgrades to streets, traffic management, parks, municipal buildings, utility systems and the airport. Because of Sugar Land's dramatic growth, the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is under almost constant study.

Sugar Land's CIP is a five-year plan, and naturally it is revised year-to-year. Citizen input is most definitely needed to identify capital improvement needs; every suggestion is carefully studied.

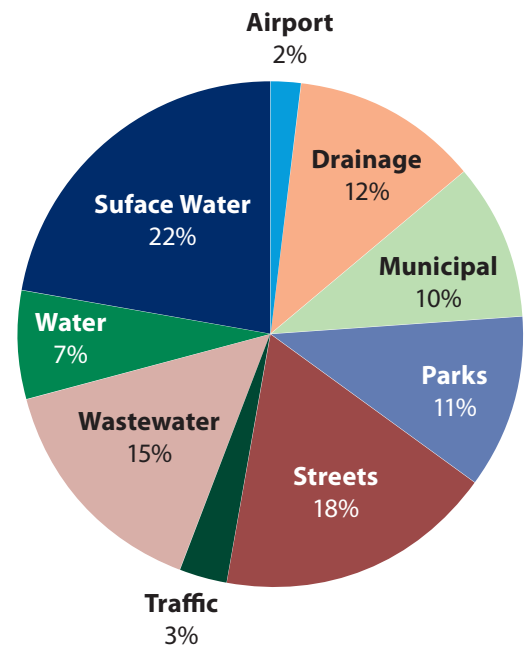
The City's Capital Improvement Plan 2007-2011 provides a schedule and funding projection for the \$183.7 million in projects. The current 2006-2007 project list totals \$31.37 million and is included on pages 10 and 11 with carryover projects; the remaining four years of the CIP are used for planning purposes.

The pie chart at right delineates the 2007-2011 CIP. The Surface Water projects make up a sizeable portion of the CIP funds, and this is attributed to the preparations the City must make for the mandatory conversion from ground water to surface water in 2013, when 30 percent of the City's potable water must come from surface sources; in 2020, 60 percent of our water must be surface water.

It is also important to note that capital projects typically are not completed in the year for which they are budgeted. Most CIP projects take longer than one year to complete.

For more information on Sugar Land's Capital Improvement Plan, visit the City's Web site, www.sugarlandtx.gov; click on "City Services," and then click on "Capital Improvements." Or you may call 281-275-2450.

2007-2011 CIP \$183.7 Million



Capital Improvement Project Completions in Fiscal Year 2006

UTILITY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

WOODCHESTER WATER PLANT STORAGE TANK REHAB

Refurbishment of existing 750,000 gallon and 400,000 gallon steel welded ground storage tanks on site.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INTERCONNECTS

Construction phase of three water distribution interconnects between the City's north distribution system pressure plant and the south pressure plant.

UNIVERSITY BLVD. 12" WATER LINE EXT. TO U.S. 90A

Design and construction of approximately 800 linear feet of 12" or 16" water line paralleling University Boulevard from the point

of termination at First Crossing to U.S. 90A. The project includes a 200 linear feet crossing at Ditch "H" providing a secondary connection to the adjacent commercial tract.

STATE HWY. 6 / U.S. 90A WATER LINE EXTENSION

Extension of the 16" water line on State Hwy 6 at Sugar Land Airport from Terminal Lane approximately 5,000 feet across U.S. 90A connecting to a water main into the Telfair development.

WOODCHESTER WATER PLANT DISTRIBUTION MAIN

Construction of 2,600 linear feet of 16" water main from the Woodchester Water Plant to the Mason Road Elevated Tower and 2,300 linear feet of 12" water main from the

Mason Tower to the intersection of Mason Road and West Airport.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER MAIN REHABILITATION

Construction phase of distribution system water line replacement project to replace aged and high maintenance existing water mains. Locations included mains in Covington Woods (Imperial Woods addition) and Venetian Estates.

LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

Expansion/rehabilitation to the lift stations identified in the Wastewater Master Plan and 2001 Lift Station Assessment Study. FY2006 lift station projects included Mesquite Rehabilitation/Conversion and expansion of West Airport Lift Station.

SLRSS BRA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REHABILITATION

All engineering services and construction cost associated with rehabilitation of the Brazos River Authority Sugar Land Regional Sewer System Treatment Plant, including replacement of the plant's influent lift station (sized for ultimate growth and diversion).

EAST AND WEST INTERCEPTOR EVALUATION

Televising and/or metallurgical inspection of the two main gravity flow trunk mains that supply the north wastewater treatment plant.

Capital Improvement Project Completions in Fiscal Year 2006



Above: Family members of Thomas L. James gather with civic leaders and citizens for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating his lifetime of service to the Sugar Land community.



DRAINAGE

BROOKSIDE/BELKNAP DRAINAGE

Phase II of design and construction of drainage improvements for Brookside/Belknap subdivisions. Included was the reconstruction of South Belknap St. from Terry to Azalea streets along with the extension of the storm sewer system north from Azalea St.

DITCH H EXTENSION & BROOKS LAKE DIVERSION

Widening of a section of the Brooks Lake Diversion Channel from the confluence of Oyster Creek and extending approximately up to South Hall Drive. Widening of Ditch "H" from the confluence of the Brazos River and extending up to the Ditch "A" outfall. This project was jointly undertaken with other drainage entities (LID 2 and FBCDD).

STREETS

MAYFIELD PARK STREET RECONSTRUCTION (AVENUE F)

Reconstruction of existing asphalt street with open ditch drainage to 28' concrete roadway, curbs, gutters, enclosed storm sewer system and sidewalks. Project partially funded by Federal Community Development Block Grant.

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

THOMAS L. JAMES PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Developed the site as a gathering place and neighborhood park for the Belknap/Brookside community. Included amenities such as an identification sign, walking path overlooking Oyster Creek, benches, drinking fountain, irrigation and landscaping.

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

TRAFFIC SIGNAL @ ELDRIDGE ROAD & NANTUCKET DR.

Installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Eldridge Road and Nantucket Drive (entrance to Eldridge Park and Barrington Place subdivisions).

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

Installation of 13 pedestrian "count down" traffic signals in school zones.

AIRPORT

AIRPORT TERMINAL

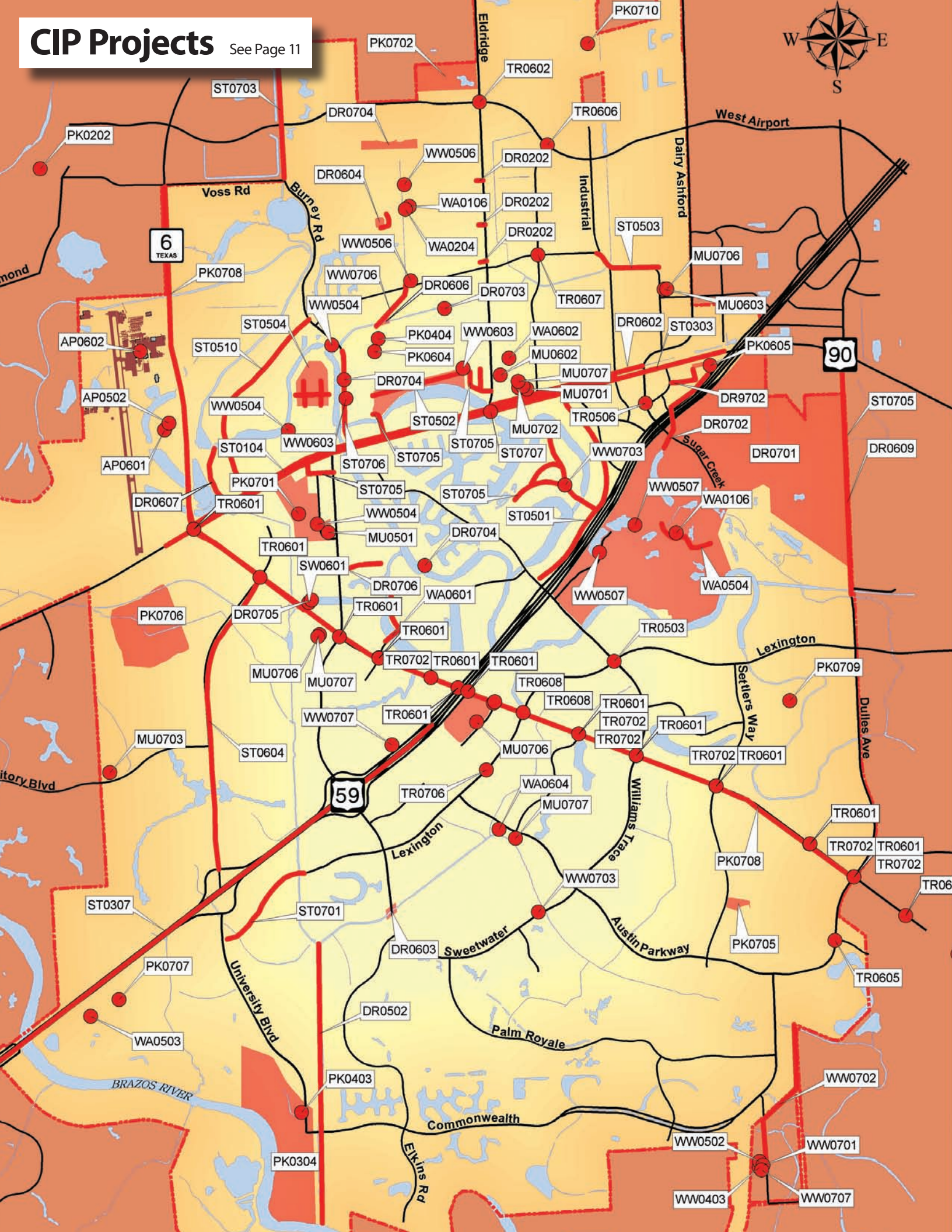
Construction of a 20,000 square-foot terminal includes conference rooms, pilots' lounge and sleeping quarters, flight planning room and accommodations for fixed base operations.

Left: City Council members and local residents celebrate the re-opening of Avenue F in Mayfield Park.

Below: The new Sugar Land Airport terminal was one of the many Capital Improvement Plan projects completed this year.



See Page 11



Capital Improvement Plan

2006-2007 Projects and Carry Overs

Proj. No.	Title	Proj. No.	Title
AP0601	T-Hangars	ST0701	Lexington Boulevard Extension
DR0602	US 90A Ditch Improvements	ST0702	Sidewalk Rehabilitation*
DR0604	Additional Inlets along Maygrove Drive/ Covington Woods	ST0703	Burney Road Widening
DR0606	Ditch "A-22" Modifications	ST0704	Pavement Rehabilitation*
DR0607	Ditch H Extension	ST0705	Asphalt Street Rehabilitation
DR0608	Storm Sewer Inlet/Apron Reconstruction*	ST0706	Main Street Reconstruction
DR0701	Sugar Creek Drainage Improvements - Phase I	ST0707	Eldridge Underpass @ US 90A
DR0702	Sugar Creek/ Market Place Phase II	TR0506	Traffic Signal- Dairy Ashford @ Park Ln.
DR0703	Additional Flow Monitors	TR0602	Eldridge @ West Airport Intersection Improvements
DR0704	Localized Drainage Improvements	TR0608	SH6 Intersection Improvements @ Lexington Blvd. & Town Center Blvd.
DR0705	AMIL Gates Rehabilitation	TR0701	Traffic Technology Upgrades*
DR0706	Belknap/Brookside Area Phase III Improvements	TR0702	Aesthetic Improvements
MU0401	City Facility Perimeter Security*	TR0703	Traffic Improvements*
MU0701	Animal Control Facility	TR0704	Count Down Pedestrian LEDs*
MU0702	Fleet Vehicle Exhaust Removal System and Shop Upgrade	TR0705	Pedestrian Study for Town Center & Surrounding Areas
MU0703	Fire Station # 7	TR0706	Traffic Signal - Lexington Boulevard @ Mall Ring Road
MU0704	Automated Building Management System*	TR0707	Implementation of Safety Study Recommendations*
MU0705	Facilities Improvements*	WW0505	SCADA System Upgrade*
MU0706	Emergency Power for City Facilities	WW0507	Lift Station Rehabilitation
MU0707	Additional Fuel Storage Capacity	WW0602	Treatment Plant Expansion
PK0403	Recreation Center	WW0603	Lift Station Rehabilitation - Main Street & Lakeview
PK0604	City Park Renovation	WW0604	Comprehensive Odor Improvement
PK0701	Imperial Park Improvements	WW0701	South Treatment Plant Rehabilitation
PK0702	Eldridge Park Trail Lighting	WW0702	North Treatment Plant Flow Diversion
PK0703	Joint Participation in CIP Projects*	WW0703	Lift Station Rehabilitation
PK0704	SH 6 and US 90A Beautification Improvements	WW0704	Collection System Rehabilitation Program*
PK0705	Settlers Way Park	WW0705	Collection System Upgrades*
PK0706	Park Land Acquisition - Telfair	WW0706	Greywood Lift Station Force Main Diversion
PK0707	Cultural Arts Study	WW0707	Treatment Plants Emergency Power
PK0708	SH 6 ROW Aesthetics	WA0102	Water Plant No. 3 & Water Well No. 7
PK0709	Lost Creek Soccer Field Lighting	WA0306	Water Utility System Security*
PK0710	Slockett Park Improvements	WA0503	Elevated Storage Tank
PK0711	Parks Rehabilitation	WA0602	Lakeview Plant Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation
PK0712	Eldridge Park Trail Extension	WA0604	Austin Parkway Plant - Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation
ST0104	SH 6 Grade Separation	WA0605	Alternative Disinfection*
ST0307	U.S. Highway 59 Widening - Phase II	WA0701	Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation
ST0504	Mayfield Park Street Reconstruction	WA0702	Well Rehabilitation & Well No. 6 Conversion
ST0508	US 59 Phase III: SH 99 Interchange	WA0703	Water Plant Upgrades*
ST0604	University Boulevard thru Tract 4 - Storm Sewer Upgrade	SW0701	Non-Potable Water Opportunities*

* Projects with varied locations throughout the city are not pictured on map.

Tree Trimming Grace Period Ends

Sugar Land residents and business owners are required to trim trees to certain heights if they affect public rights-of-way. City Ordinance 1505 was passed by City Council May 16, 2005, in order to ensure safe passage for large vehicles such as fire trucks and solid waste trucks. A grace period runs through January 2007.

Before notifying residents of any violation, City staff is visiting every neighborhood and working with homeowners associations or property management groups to ensure compliance at all levels of maintenance responsibility. Watch the City's Traffic Message Board to find out when we will be in your neighborhood. To help assure compliance, please tell your friends and help your neighbors if compliance is difficult for them.

Here's what the Ordinance says:

All trees and limbs growing in or near a right of way, including side yard trees and backyard trees if they back up to a street, must be trimmed to the regulated height:

- Where the tree overhangs a residential street, there must

be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

- Where the tree overhangs a non-residential street (occasional semi-trailer traffic), there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

If no action is taken to trim the trees, a letter will be sent advising the home or business owner of the violation. After 30 days, a re-inspection occurs. If the violation persists, the Code Enforcement Department will issue a citation to appear in court.

Help ensure there is enough clearance for large vehicles. Fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks need to safely navigate City streets with a clear view of traffic safety devices.

First Colony Community Association homeowners will receive tree trimming by FC-CA's landscaping department as part of their maintenance fees.

If you have a question about maintenance responsibilities, contact your homeowners association or the City at 281-275-2450.

New Recycling Center

With the popularity and strong use of the current drop-off recycling center, the City, with support from Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, received a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council for a second drop-off location. It will open in December at 4802 Oilfield Road. The location is a convenient alternative for City residents who live in the southern portion of Sugar Land. The current center is located in the north part of the City at 101 Gillingham Lane.

These facilities are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to these drop-off facilities, the City also offers curbside recycling.

For any additional information concerning the new recycling facility or additional recycling options within the City of Sugar Land, please contact the Public Works Department at 281-275-2450 or solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov.



Accepted items at recycling centers

101 Gillingham Lane (Macco Park)

- Brown Glass
- Clear Glass
- Paper
- Cardboard

4802 Oilfield Road

- Brown Glass
- Clear Glass
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Aluminum Cans

Merry Mulching to One and All

Donate your Christmas tree and receive a "mulch" belated Christmas gift. The City of Sugar Land and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful are co-sponsoring the recycling event that will be grinding trees into mulch for free distribution to residents on Saturday, Jan. 6 at Eldridge Park, 2511 Eldridge Rd. from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., or while

supplies last. The collected trees will be ground into mulch and given away in bags. Residents may request that one backhoe bucket of mulch be loaded directly onto a truck or trailer.

To be recycled, trees must be free of all ornaments, tinsel, trimmings, metal tree stands and plastic tree sacks. Flocked trees cannot be re-

cycled and must be disposed of with other residential waste.

Recycling schedule:

- Curbside tree collection on Wednesday, Dec. 27; Wednesday, Jan. 3; and Saturday, Jan. 6. Collection on Saturday, Jan. 6 will end at 9 a.m. Christmas trees set out on any other collection day will go to the landfill.

- Christmas trees may also be dropped off for recycling at Lost Creek Park, 3703 Lost Creek Boulevard, or Eldridge Park, 2511 Eldridge Road, between Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Friday, Jan. 5.

For more information on Christmas tree recycling, call 281-275-2450 or e-mail solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov.

Catch the holiday spirit in Town Square

Sugar Land Town Square is a holiday festival again this season. Enjoy horse-and-carriage rides every Friday and Saturday in December from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Christmas tree will sparkle in the night sky through January 1, 2007. Visit www.sugarland-townsquare.com to get all the holiday scoop.



New Task Force Studies Animal Shelter Options

A new animal control shelter for Sugar Land is part of the 2007 budget and will be determined, in part, by the work of a new special task force. The task force membership, not yet finalized when this issue of *Sugar Land Today* went to press, will be comprised of active community volunteers, members of the Animal Control Advisory Board, Sugar Land 101 graduates and citizens who have expressed an interest in animal sheltering and adoptions.

The task force will visit other communities with active volunteer and nonprofit programs to research and learn more, then will assist the City of Sugar Land in developing our own programs.

Those who would like to provide input to the task force or volunteer once a new animal control program is in place, please e-mail mwg@sugarlandtx.gov or call 281-275-2218.

Plumbing Tips to Save Time and Dollars

Understanding the plumbing in your home pays great dividends in avoided costs and potential repair headaches. Two of the most useful emergency components of your house's water and sewer service are your personal water turnoff locations and your wastewater cleanout.

Wastewater Cleanout

Your wastewater cleanout is the access point for your residential sewer line. The cleanout is generally located within 12-24 inches of your home (which is often in the front, but sometimes to the rear of your property). The

cleanout is normally a four-inch pipe with a white cap and should rise several inches above the ground. In the event of a sewer backup in your house lines, removing the cap can potentially decrease a wastewater overflow into your home and may eliminate damage in the home. Exercise care when removing the cap, and keep the area around the cap clear so that it is easily accessible in an emergency.

Water Turnoff

The primary shutoff valve for your house's water supply is often found directly outside your house near a hose con-

nection. It can be located by imagining a straight line from the meter box in your yard to the closest point on your house. In some homes the house valve is located inside, often in a garage or laundry room.

In cases where a water problem is more localized, there are other subsequent water turnoff locations throughout your house, including shutoff valves under kitchen and bathroom sinks and behind your toilets. Familiarize yourself with the location of these turnoffs in your home.

recreation

Parks and Recreation Department, 281-275-2885

Tennis Lessons

Fort Bend Tennis Services
City Park Tennis Courts

For more information on dates and times, call
281-980-4219



Karate

Eldridge Park

Tuesdays
January 16- April 3

Uniform required – can be purchased from instructor

Beginners

Ages 5 – 12 6 p.m.

Advanced

Ages 5 – 12 7 p.m.

Adult

8 p.m.

Fees: Resident - \$40



Duplicate Bridge

Sue Williams, certified ACBL
Director and Teacher

Tuesdays
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
2nd, 4th and 5th (when applicable) Thursday of the month
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fees:
Resident - \$4.00 per game

No experience? No problem!
Play will accommodate all levels of experience!
Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

First Colony Community Center
For more information call,
281-980-9588

Tai Chi

Beginners

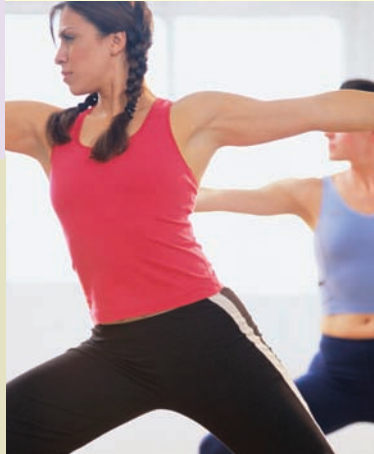
Wednesday 7 p.m.

Sugar Land Community Center
Ages 14 - Adult
Fees:
Resident - \$7 per class

Senior Tai Chi

Wednesday 9 a.m.

Sugar Land Senior Center
Ages 50 and older
No fee



Ballet Flamenco

Yvonne Robertson

Monday and Thursday

Beginners

Ages 4 – 12 4:15 p.m.

Intermediate

Ages 5 – 12 5:20 p.m.

Lost Creek Community Center
Fees: Residents - \$70 per month

For more information on attire
call 281-460-2412

Senior Ballet Flamenco

Yvonne Robertson

Friday 10 a.m.

Sugar Land Community Center
Ages 50 years and older

Fees:
Residents - \$25 per month

For more information on
attire call 281-460-2412

Yoga for Stress Relief

Relieve stress, soothe aches and pain, strengthen mind/body/spirit connection. Learn postures, breathing and meditation.

Maya Matha
Sugar Land Community Center
Jan. 9 to Feb. 15
Feb. 27 to April 5
April 17 to May 24

Wednesday and Friday
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Fees:
Residents - \$75 per session

* Call for non-resident fees.



Jazzercise

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:40 p.m.
Tuesday 5:40 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. and 5:40 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

First Colony Community Center
For more information call 281-437-7157
www.fortbendjazz.com

Senior Jazzercise

Tuesday 9 a.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Ages 50 years and older

Sugar Land Community Center
For more information call 281-437-7157
www.fortbendjazz.com



Water Utility

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conversion of 30 percent of water usage to surface water or sources other than groundwater by 2013. The City currently reserves 25 cents of each 1,000 gallons billed to accumulate funds to cover initial costs associated with the mandatory surface water conversion. The City is preparing the groundwater reduction plan and beginning design and construction of the infrastructure needed to make the conversion from groundwater to surface water.

Utility revenues also support repayment of debt issued by the City for various capital improvements, and water/wastewater debt assumed from the municipal utility districts which were annexed and dissolved by the City.

It has been the City's practice to evaluate the City's utility rates and structure periodically. In May 2006, the City contracted with R W Beck, Inc. to evaluate the utility system and recommend any improvements to the rate structure to support the system's continued operations. The study is concluding, and a final report will be presented to City Council for discussion and action in the first quarter of 2007.



Senior Adventures

Call 281-275-2885 for registration information or to subscribe to *Sweet Notes*, a monthly update of senior happenings. Cost for all senior activities is slightly more for non-residents.

Texas Treasure

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Depart at 6 a.m.

Start the New Year off right by placing your bets on the Texas Treasure Casino Cruise. Cost is \$35 for residents. Lunch, cruise and entertainment are included in the cost.

Houston Favorites

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Depart at 9 a.m.

Mrs. Baird's Bakery and St. Arnold's Brewery Tours! Cost is \$15 for residents. Tasting at St. Arnold's is included. Lunch is not included in the cost.

Senior Center Dedication

Friday, January 19, 2007

1 – 5 p.m.

Dust off your zoot suits and flapper dresses as we take a step back in time to the roaring 20's to dedicate the newly renovated Sugar Land Senior Center. Spend the afternoon with us as we show off the senior citizens' new digs. Johnny Dyson's Combo Band will delight us with music throughout the afternoon.

For more information, call 281-275-2885 or email us at seniors@sugarlandtx.gov.



The Houstonian Lite team won the 2006 Texas Round-Up challenge in the Service Organization Category.

Time to Shape Up, Sugar Land!

It's a community-wide effort!

Sugar Land is the undisputed, three-time defending Fittest City in Texas champion. The quest for a fourth consecutive win in Governor Rick Perry's Texas Roundup Health and Fitness begins soon! If you're interested in being part of a championship effort – and the many benefits of "shaping

up"—call Nicole Volek, chairperson of Shape Up Sugar Land, at 281-932-9844, or write her at dna0623@yahoo.com.

For more information about Texas Round-Up, visit www.texasroundup.org.

In 2007, make a commitment to your own health and fitness—and help make Shape Up Sugar Land the largest

Shape Up team in Texas. Remember, all types of activities count in the point total—from gardening to walking to running a marathon! Texas Round-Up is designed to meet the physical abilities of all Texans. With the new year will come a new challenge...going for a fourth-straight title!

calendar

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm City events. For Town Square events, visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com.

	Date	Event	Time	Location
JANUARY	1	New Year's Day, City offices closed; no solid waste collection		
	2	Solid waste collection resumes		
	2, 16, 23	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	3	Curbside Christmas tree pickup		
	6	Christmas Tree Mulch Day; curbside Christmas tree pickup	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Eldridge Park (while supplies last)
	9	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	9	Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	15	Martin Luther King Day, City offices closed		
	17, 18	AARP Safe Driving	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	200 Matlage Way
	18	Citizens Police Academy begins	7 p.m.	Sugar Land Police Department, 1200 Highway 6 S.
	18	HOA representative meeting	7 p.m.	City Hall
	19	New Senior Center dedication	1-5 p.m.	200 Matlage Way
	20	MYAC City Tour	9 a.m.	City Hall
	25	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	27	Green Thumb Tree Care Class	10 a.m.	Lost Creek Park
	30	Candidates packets available for City elections	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	City Hall
FEBRUARY	6, 20, 27	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8	Senior Sweetheart Dance	5-8 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	8	Sugar Land 101 begins	7 p.m.	City Hall
	9	Daddy-Daughter Date Night	7-10 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	10	Mommy-Son Date Night	7-10 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	10	MYAC Meet the Chiefs	9 a.m.	Sugar Land Police Department, 1200 Highway 6 S.
	12	First day to file for place on City May ballot	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	City Hall
	13	Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	13	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	21, 22	AARP Safe Driving	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	200 Matlage Way
	22	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall



City of Sugar Land
P.O. Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

PRST STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
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SUGAR LAND, TX.
Permit No. 8

POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Sugar Land offices will be closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25, New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2007, and Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 15, 2007.